



A project of the European Anti-Cybercrime Technology Development Association
(EACTDA)



D7.3. Online evaluation platform pilot phase report



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1. Introduction

1.1. Overview of the Tools4LEAs project

EACTDA is the acronym of the European Anti-Cybercrime Technology Development Association, which is a private non-profit association, established in San Sebastian, Spain. The members of the Association include European Union (EU) public entities fighting cybercrime, universities and research technology organisations, for-profit private companies, and other relevant actors in the field of the EU security research and innovation.

The Tools4LEAs projects are a series of projects that receive a Direct Award under the ISFP programme, and which main goal is to facilitate and promote the uptake of innovative technologies by EU public entities fighting cybercrime. EACTDA, via the Tools4LEAs projects, aims at further developing pre-existing assets, mainly from EU-funded security research and development projects, so that they are offered with no license cost and with access to the source code to EU public entities fighting cybercrime.

In the first Tools4LEAs project (v1; Jul'21 to Jun'23), the focus was on designing and setting up the infrastructures, processes, and governance / decision-making mechanisms, whilst delivering the first set of “fully-tested and operational-ready” tools via Europol’s Tool Repository. Though 11 tools were further developed in the v1 project, it is expected that 3 of them will not be released to their targeted audience as they do not pass the pre-established quality threshold of “operational-ready”. Also, an End-User Advisory Board (EUAB) composed as of Feb'25 by 22 members from 14 EU member states and co-chaired by two Europol units (EC3 and Innovation Lab) was established and it is the body responsible for identifying and prioritising end-user needs and which has veto right over the decisions done by EACTDA/Tools4LEAs with regard to the tool development roadmap.

In the second Tools4LEAs project (v2; Jul'23 to Jun'25), it is proposed to double the number of tools delivered. Also, the repository of tools implemented in v1, and currently used to host the results of the Tools4LEAs projects, will be enhanced and reused to host the results of EU-funded security research projects (when relevant in the field of cybercrime). EACTDA will play the role of custodian of these results, and the technical, IPR, and administrative aspects needed to create this new repository of security research results will be put in place. In addition, the v2 project will include a pilot to proof the concept of initial and limited support&maintenance periods for a selection of tools. Besides, a pilot of the concept of EACTDA national nodes will be included, with nodes planned in LT, FR, ES, and maybe one or two more. Also, an online platform for end-users to evaluate Tools4LEAs tools will be implemented. Finally, the v2 project will include activities to further build the community of Tools4LEAs stakeholders and to promote the creation and/or adoption of technical blueprints, and in general, of commonly accepted best practices.

1.2. Main objective of this document

As commented in the previous section, the Tools4LEAs-v2 project’s scope includes an online platform for end-users to allow them evaluate Tools4LEAs tools. This document presents the status of the implementation of the platform, an evaluation of it, and the work plan in preparation of its demonstration during the first week of April 2025 as part of the six-monthly demonstration and evaluation event of the Tools4LEAs-v2 project.

1.3. Relation to other deliverables

This deliverable is closely related to the following deliverables:

- **D7.1. Evaluation report of the online evaluation platform's implementation:** Deliverable D7.2 reports on the implementation of the online evaluation platform, and therefore it provides an update of the initial design presented in D7.1.
- **D7.2. Evaluation report of the online evaluation platform's implementation:** Deliverable D7.3 reports on the status of the platform as of February 2025, whilst D7.2 presented the design and status of the development of the platform in September 2024.
- **D7.4. Online evaluation platform launch and operation report:** Similarly to deliverable D7.3, deliverable D7.4 will report on the results of the initial period of operational use of the platform.

1.4. Structure of the deliverable

Section 2 of this document introduces the concept of the online evaluation platform, its intended purpose, targeted users, and the planned work plan to implement it.

Section 3 presents the status of the implementation of the online evaluation platform and of its initial piloting.

Section 4 presents the work plan of the remaining work that is needed to complete the implementation of the platform before it is fully launched at the end of the Tools4LEAs-v2 project.

Finally, section 5 summarises which is the goal and key aspects of this document, it acknowledges that there is still work to be done to improve the document, and it presents some of the areas of future work that have already been identified.

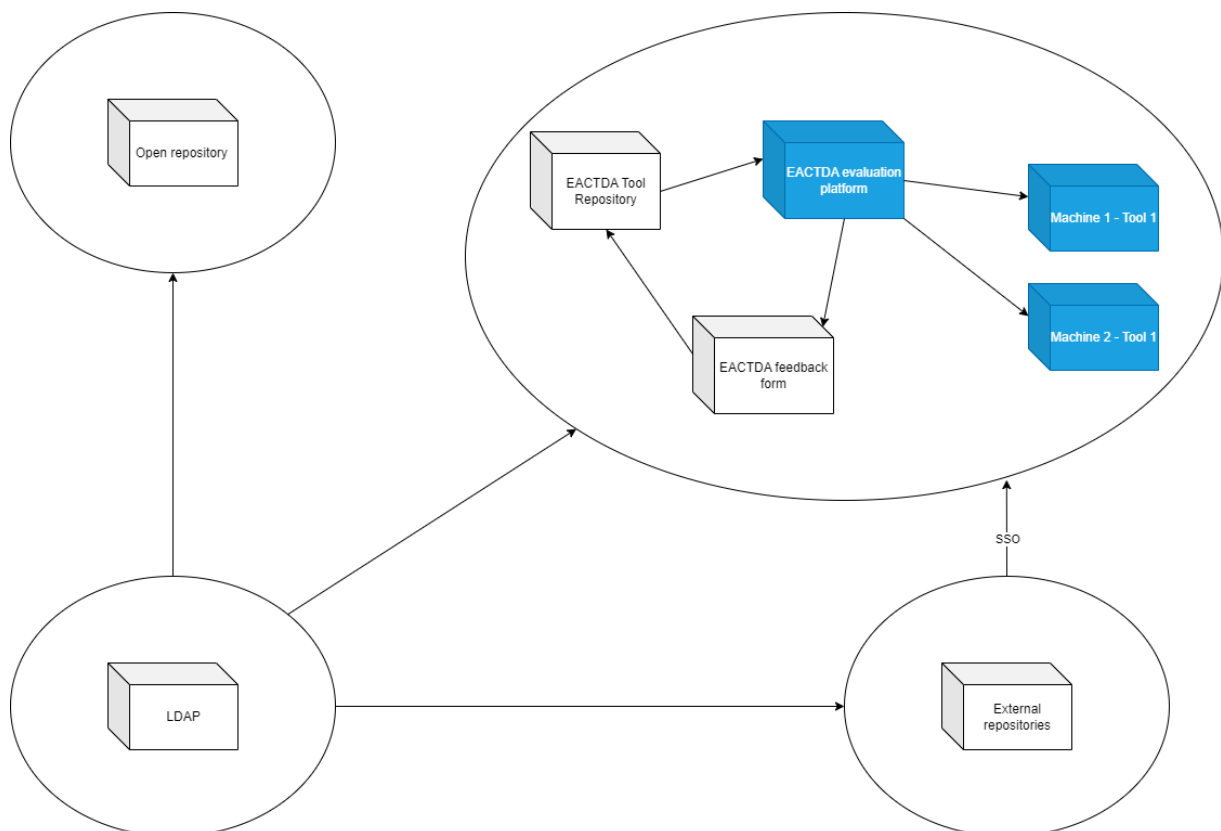
2. Introduction to the Online Evaluation Platform

2.1. Purpose of the Online Evaluation Platform

Facilitating the uptake of innovative solutions by European Union public entities fighting cybercrime is at the core of EACTDA and the series of Tools4LEAs projects.

During the Tools4LEAs v1 project (Jul'21 to Jun'23) the End-User Advisory Board of the project proposed to facilitate an evaluation platform at which authorised users could evaluate the Tools4LEAs tools that have been considered fully-tested and operational-ready and which, therefore, are released via the different distribution channels (i.e., EACTDA's repository of tools, Europol's ETR) and available to our targeted end-users to adopt and use.

This platform is encompassed inside a bigger ecosystem, which is designed with the aim to facilitate the uptake and evaluation of the projects developed within the Tools4LEAs project framework. So, before describing the functionalities of the Online Evaluation Platform, the full ecosystem will be briefly described.



EACTDA's Online Evaluation Platform is a platform that will allow the users try different type of tools, all of them developed within the Tools4LEAs project. As of now, three tool categories have been identified: web service tools, API tools and standalone tools. The main functionalities of this platform will be described in the Functional requirements section. Once the evaluation session for a specific tool has finished, the user will be redirected to EACTDA's feedback form. This form will include different categories that the user will have to fulfill to provide valuable feedback from the tool.

In order to access the platform, the user must be logged in. Depending on the user privileges that the user possesses (previously defined by the administrator), the user will be able to login to the Online Evaluation Platform or will only be able to access EACTDA's Tool Repository. This repository will allow

the user to view metadata from each tool (name, version, author), as well as a description, videos describing the functionalities of the tool, etc. As it has already been explained, depending on the user permissions, he/she will be able to request access to an instance of the tool, in order to try it and evaluate it. To establish the connection between the Tool Repository and the Online Evaluation Platform Single Sign-On will be implemented.

Besides, Single Sign-On will also be implemented to allow users with permissions granted to access any of these previous services from an external trusted environment/repository, such as Europol's ETR, the Freetool Hub, or ECTEG's catalogue of training courses.

Apart from these services, an Open Repository will be designed. This will act as a catalogue of tools from external projects (relevant project related to cybersecurity) that will be hosted in this repository for the user to download them. This repository will be opened to everyone. However, in order for the users to download the tools, they will have to register to it.

To manage the user accounts to every service described above, an LDAP server has been implemented, which will allow the users access all the available service by just logging in once to the LDAP server. In this server the users will have to register and create an EACTDA account, which will serve them to access the different services within the ecosystem. The type of access to each service will depend on the permissions level provided by the administrator.

2.2. Targeted users of the Online Evaluation Platform

All EACTDA targeted end-users, this is, European Union public entities fighting cybercrime¹, are the targeted users of the online evaluation platform. In addition, EACTDA Secretariat IT staff will also be the administrator of the platform.

¹ In Autumn 2023 the Board of the Association agreed to extend the targeted audience not only to EU public entities fighting cybercrime but also to public entities fighting cybercrime from Schengen area countries, included those that are not from the EU.

3. Status of the online evaluation platform's implementation and it's initial pilot phase

3.1. Integration with the EACTDA Portal

The “Online Evaluation Platform” has been seamlessly integrated using Single Sign On with the “EACTDA Portal”, which is the service that is used to register and authenticate holders of “EACTDA Accounts”.

3.1.1. EACTDA Accounts

EACTDA is implementing a user management system with a single sign-in service to allow users to access a wide range of EACTDA services and products with just one set of credentials. This system is called “EACTDA Accounts”, and its key features are:

- **Single Sign-On:** Use one email address and password to sign in to multiple EACTDA services like Outlook, OneDrive, Office, Xbox Live, and more.
- **Security:** EACTDA Accounts come with robust security features, including two-factor authentication and account recovery options.
- **Personalization:** users's experience can be customized with personalized settings and preferences that follow users across different services.
- **Different user access groups:** the system allows to create different user access groups and to assign new users to one or more of these groups (e.g., Administrator, End-users, End-User Advisory Board member, End-User domain-expert, Others). Depending on the access groups a user has been assigned to, he or she will have (or not) permissions and access levels to the different EACTDA services.

3.1.2. EACTDA Portal

To allow users to create and manage EACTDA Accounts, an online portal named “EACTDA Portal” is being developed. The BETA version of this portal is planned to be launched in April 2025. Below we present a few screenshots of some of the pages of the Portal as of February 2025.

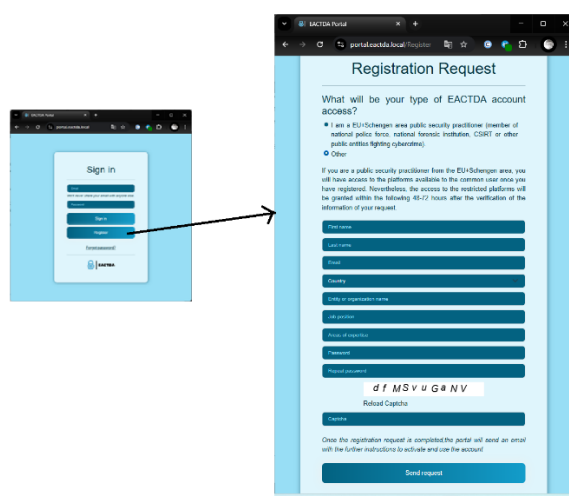


Figure 1 - EACTDA Portal "Sign-in" and "Register" pages

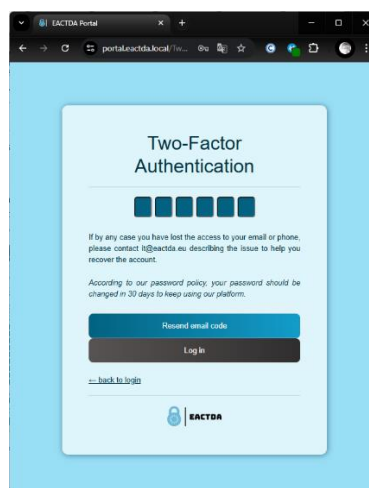


Figure 2 - Two Factor authentication implemented (2 options: SMS or Authenticator Apps)

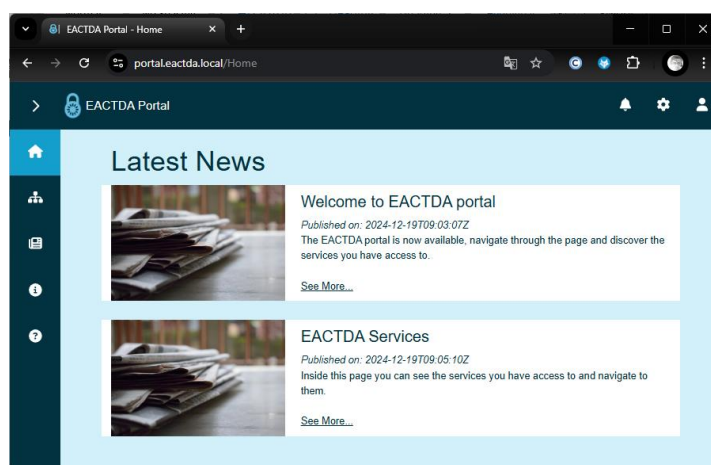


Figure 3 - Home page with summary of Latest News

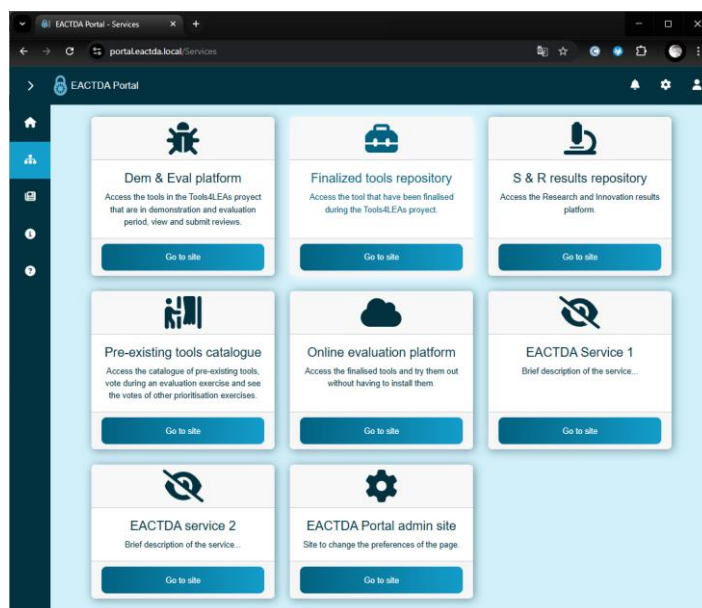


Figure 4 - EACTDA Services page

3.1.3. Integration of the Online Evaluation Platform with the EACTDA Portal

Once a user has successfully registered and logged-in to the EACTDA Portal, if he/she has the permissions to access it, the Online Evaluation Platform service will be listed under the EACTDA Services page of the portal. Users with no access rights to the online evaluation platform will not see the service in the same page.

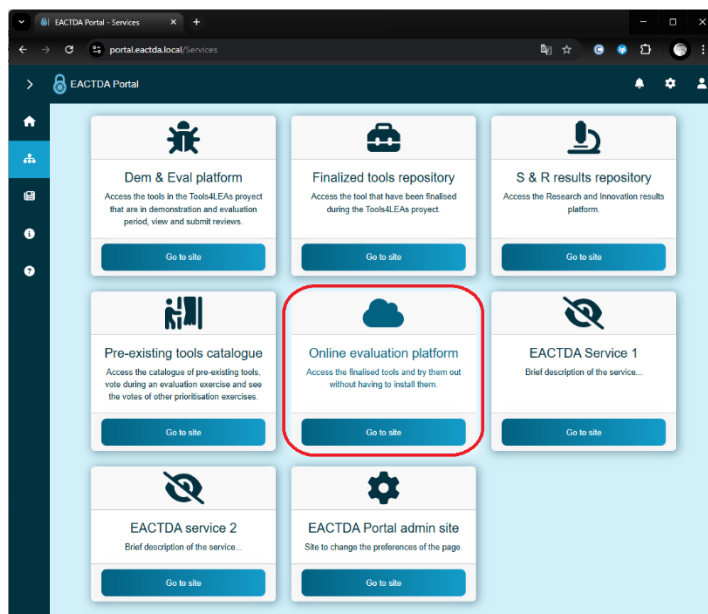


Figure 5 - The Online Evaluation Platform listed in the EACTDA Services page (available via SSO)

3.2. Status of the Online Evaluation Platform development

As of February 2025, the implementation of the online evaluation platform is not completed as originally planned. Below we report the status of the different parts of the platform.

The user management back-end and front-end modules of the platform have been completed, including the integration with the LDAP service.

Below we present a set of screenshots of the online evaluation platform's user interface in its development environment as of February 10th, 2025.

When a user clicks on the "Go to site" button of the "Online Evaluation Platform" service, he/she will be redirected to the platform seamlessly (single sign on).

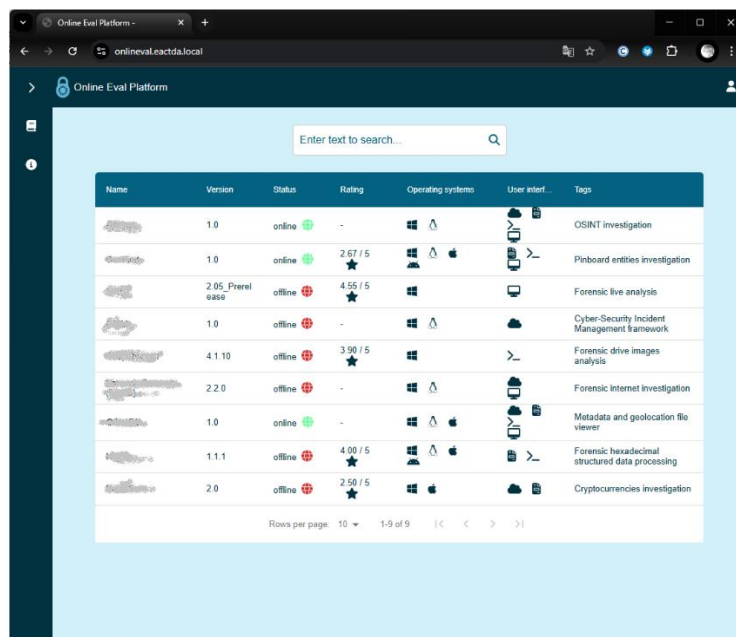


Figure 6 - Home page of the Online Evaluation Platform

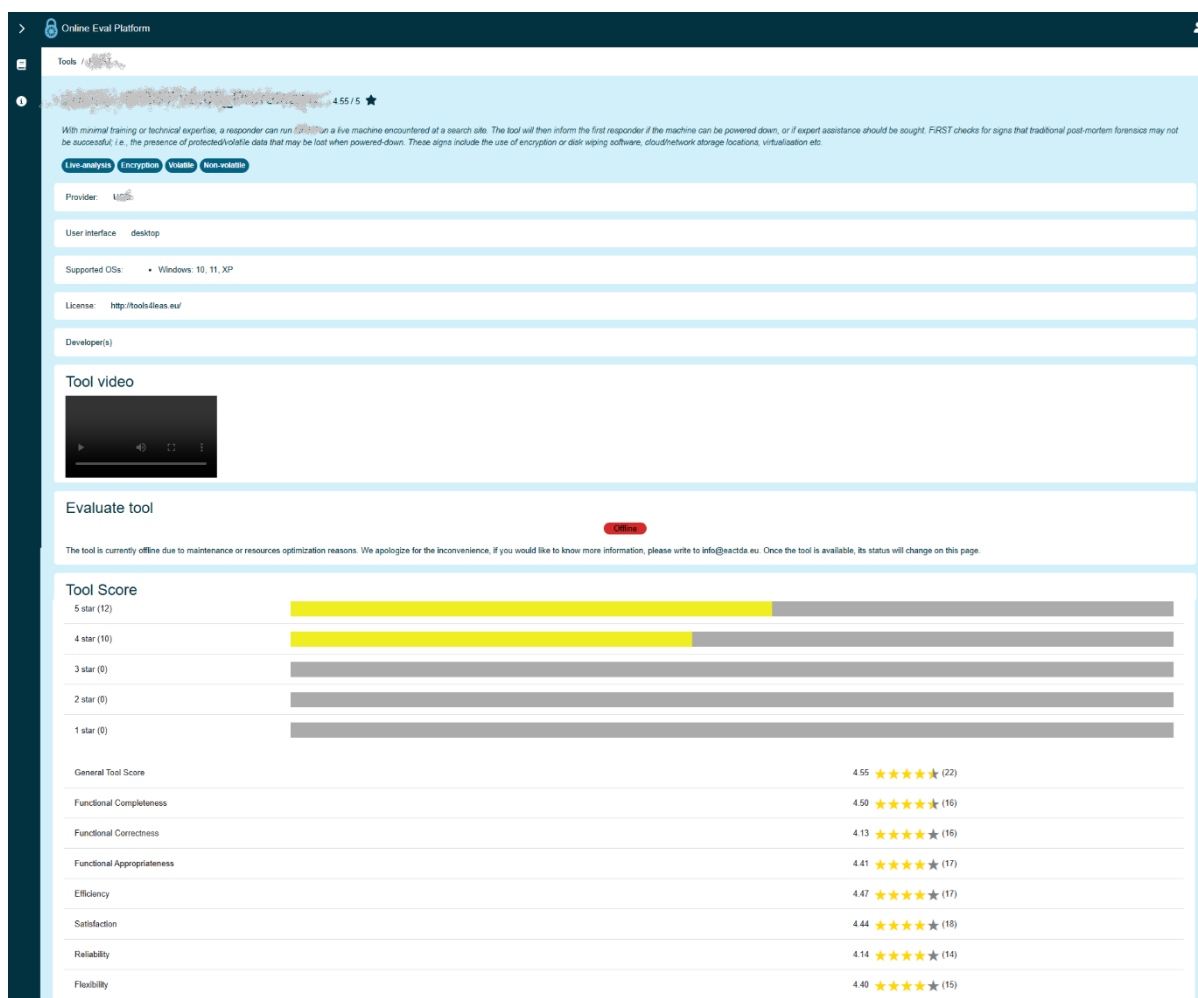


Figure 7 - Tool details page

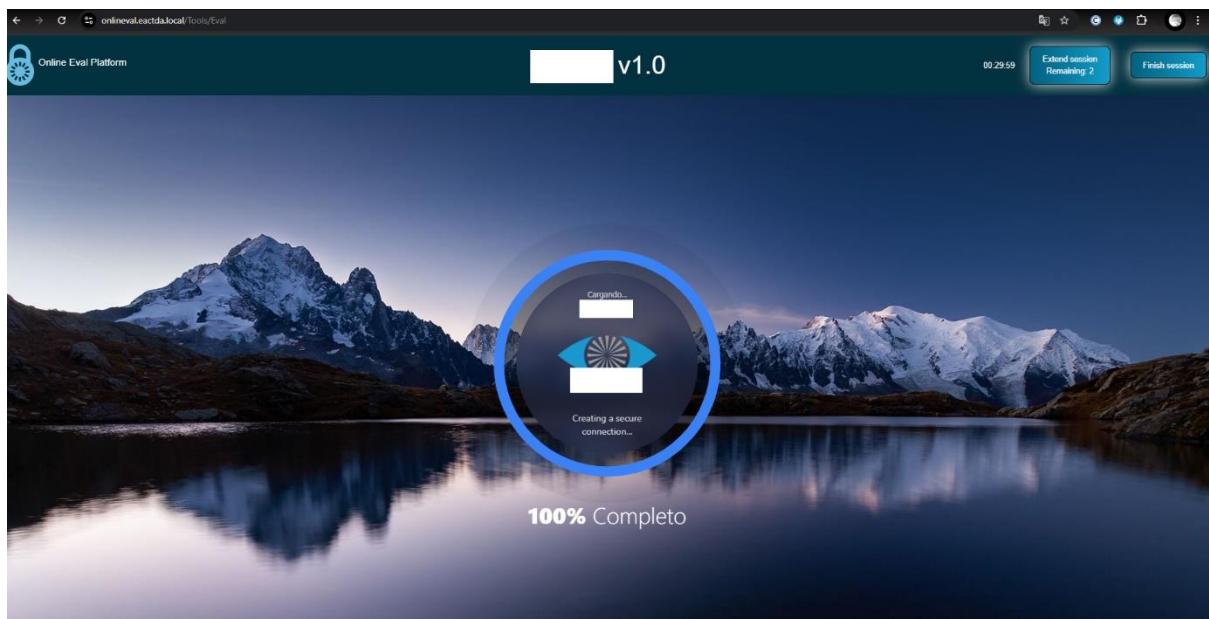


Figure 8 - Giving the user access to the chosen tool; opening page

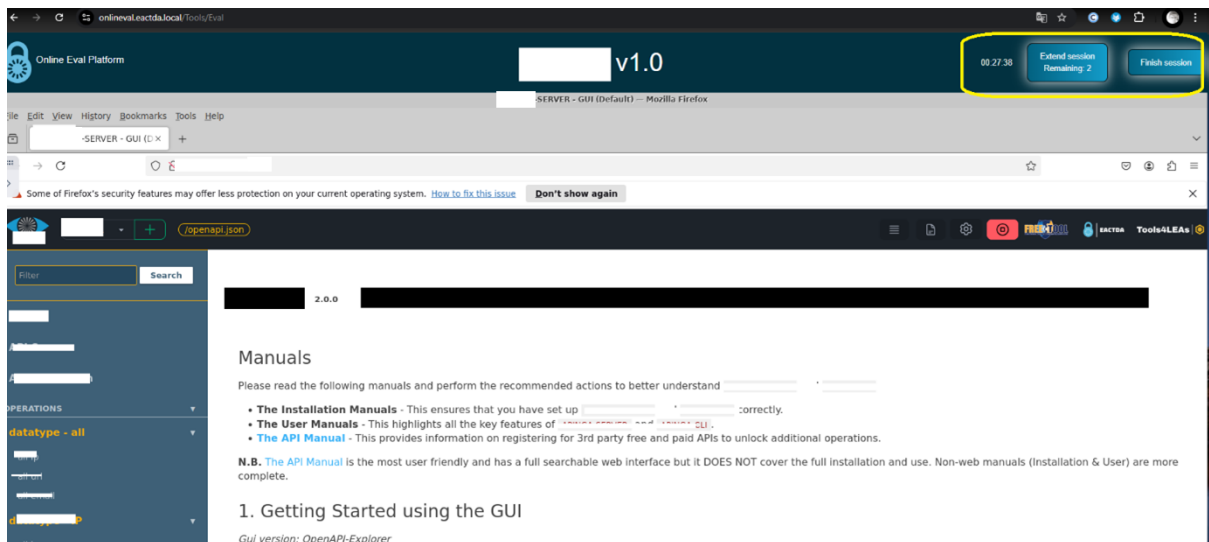


Figure 9 - Example of a tool being evaluated; with remaining evaluation time display, finish session, and extend duration buttons

4. Online Evaluation Platform's work plan

As of February 2025, the plan is to have a BETA version of the Online Evaluation Platform ready by the end of March 2025, so that it can be demonstrated during the Tools4LEAs-v2 six-monthly event that will take place in Vienna the first week of April 2025. There will then be a “Beta” period of approximately 6 months during which the EACTDA Portal, the Online Evaluation Platform, and a few other EACTDA services will be opened to a reduced/limited number of external users (e.g., EACTDA staff, members of the End-User Advisory Board of the Tools4LEAs project). With the feedback collected and as some additional features are implemented, a “final” version of the EACTDA Portal and of the Online Evaluation Platform is planned for the second part of the year.

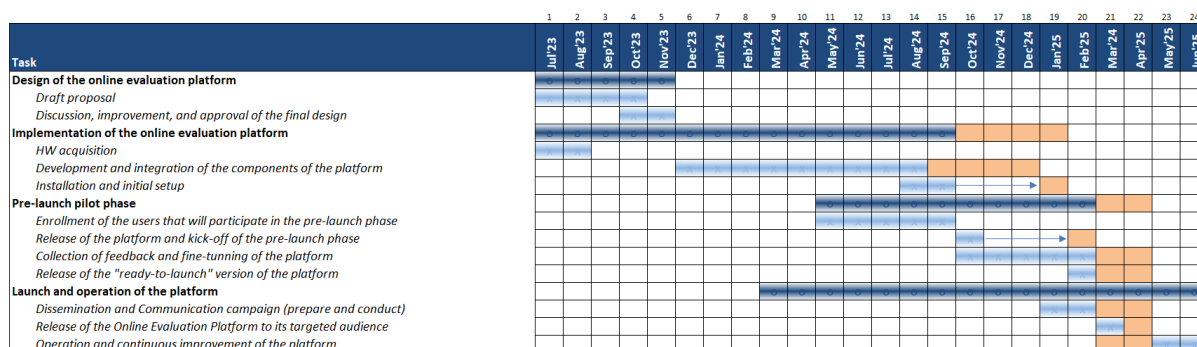


Figure 10 - Online Evaluation Platform's implementation work plan (updated)

5. Summary

5.1. Conclusion

This document describes what the online evaluation platform is, its intended purpose and users, the status of its implementation, and an update on the remaining implementation work plan.

5.2. Evaluation

The original aim of this deliverable was to report on the status of the implementation of the pilot phase of the online evaluation platform. However, due to the delay identified early 2024 and already reported in D7.2, the pilot phase will take place a bit later. It is now planned to release in April in BETA mode the Online Evaluation Platform, as part of the EACTDA Account and the EACTDA Portal. The “Beta” period will last approximately 5-6 months, after which the final version of the platform will be released.

Therefore, this deliverable is reporting the progress made since Sep’25 (deliverable D7.2) and Feb’25. Deliverable D7.4, planned to be submitted by the end of the Tools4LEAs-v2 project, will report about the “Beta” period and the remaining work on the “online evaluation platform” (if any).

5.3. Future work

This deliverable will not be updated.